



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLUMBIA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CRACK COCAINE CONSPIRACY

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Columbia, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine.

Sheldon L. Bryant, 28, of Columbia, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright on Sept. 20, 2004, in Jefferson City.

By pleading guilty, **Bryant** admitted that he conspired to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine between Aug. 1, 2001, and July 18, 2003.

Bryant was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on June 18, 2004, in Jefferson City.

Under federal statutes, **Bryant** is subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole up to life in prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$4 million. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney C. Douglas Shull. It was investigated by MUSTANG (the Mid-Missouri Unified Strike Team and Narcotics Group), the Columbia, Mo., Police Department and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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